BACKGROUND

Drug shortages (DS) are a current global health issue. To deal with them, hospital pharmacist (HP) are forced to resort to different suppliers and manufacturers, or to seek supplies abroad, in order to guarantee the treatment of patients.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To analyse DS that affected a second-level hospital during last year (March 2018 to March 2019)
To describe measures taken by hospital pharmacist

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Weekly revision of all DS that affected our hospital
• Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products (AEMPS) webpage
• Calling laboratories when medications were delayed

Drug involved
• Drug involved
• ATC Classification System

Analysis of pharmaceutical actions to solve DS

RESULTS

172 DS

Main ATC groups affected

| Other Therapeutic Products | 5 |
| Antipsychotics | 5 |
| Antiarrhythmics, class I and III | 7 |
| Corticosteroids for systemic | 8 |
| Antimetabolites | 12 |

8 (4.7%) were not notified to the AEMPS

Hospital Pharmacist actions

- No needed action: 34.3%
- Changing the supplier: 37.8%
- Buying a different packaging: 11.0%
- Foreign medicine importation: 8.7%
- Therapeutic alternative: 4%
- Restricting use: 3%
- Magistral formula: 1%

CONCLUSIONS

Currently, we are forced to deal with a large number of DS. It is important to coordinate different health services in order to take adequate measures to face shortages, without risking patient safety.